

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 H-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 CIAE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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SUBJ: HUMAN CONTACTS: US-SOVIET FAMILY REUNIFICATION
IN 1973

REF: MOSCOW 14392

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PROGRESS REMAINS DISAPPOINTING ON
USG REPRESENTATION (FAMILY REUNIFICATION) LIST XV,
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ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS PROCESSED BY EMBASSY
IN 1973 REACHED RECORD HIGH OF 758. OVERWHELMING

MAJORITY OF SUCCESSFUL EMIGRANTS WERE EITHER JEWISH (66 PERCENT) OR ARMENIAN (24 PERCENT). DESPITE HIGH LEVEL USG EFFORTS DURING PAST YEAR, SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION WAS RECEIVED IN ONLY THREE OF TEN REPATRIATION CASES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT USSR. DIVIDED SPOUSES ALSO ENCOUNTERED CONTINUING BUREAUCRATIC DIFFICULTIES AND DELAYS ON SOVIET SIDE; ONE RECENTLY MARRIED SPOUSE OF AMCIT HAS NOW WAITED ALMOST ELEVEN MONTHS FOR EXIT PERMISSION. NUMBER OF PRIVATE SOVIET VISITORS TO RELATIVES IN US INCREASED ONLY SLIGHTLY IN 1973. END SUMMARY.

2. AS OF JANUARY 7, 1974 SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION WAS RECEIVED IN 52 OF 221 CASES ON USG REPRESENTATION LIST XV. THIS REPRESENTS 23 PERCENT SUCCESS RATIO ON MOST RECENT FAMILY REUNIFICATION LIST, WHICH WAS PRESENTED BY CHARGE DUBS TO FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV MAY 16 AND BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESEL TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN JUNE 8. SUCCESS RATIO IN THE ALMOST EIGHT MONTHS SINCE FIRST PRESENTATION THIS LIST, WHICH INCLUDES THE MOST LONG-STANDING CASES OF DIVIDED US-SOVIET FAMILIES, THUS BELOW 24 PERCENT SUCCESS ACHIEVED ON REP. LISTS XIV AND XII (EACH OF WHICH WAS IN EFFECT SIX MONTHS) VIEWED IN PERSPECTIVE OF VERY WELCOME IMPROVEMENTS IN OTHER ASPECTS BILATERAL RELATIONS, RATE OF PROGRESS IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION AREA REMAINS DISAPPOINTINGLY LOW.

3. EMIGRATION TOTAL AND NATIONALITY BREAKDOWN. OVERALL NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS PROCESSED BY THIS EMBASSY INCREASED ABOUT 52 PERCENT FROM 500 IN 1972 TO NEW RECORD OF 758 IN 1973. (TOTAL INCLUDES 271 IV ISSUANCES AND 487 EMIGRANTS WHOSE PROCESSING INITIATED HERE AND COMPLETED VIA TCP/ROME) AS IN 1972 (MOSCOW 0144 9* 1/5/73), JEWS (502 OR 66 PERCENT) AND ARMENIANS (185 OR 24 PERCENT) CONSTITUTED OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SOVIET EMIGRANTS TO US. ALTHOUGH SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION WAS RECEIVED IN SEVERAL LONG-STANDING JEWISH AND ARMENIAN CASES IN 1973, GREAT MAJORITY SUCCESSFUL EMIGRANTS WERE FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS. JEWISH APPLICANTS, MOST OF WHOM FROM FORMER CZECHOSLOVAK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRANS-CARPATHIAN OBLAST OF UKRAINE OR FORMER ROMANIA AREAS OF MOLDAVIAN SSR AND CHERNOVTSY OBLAST OF UKRAINE, CLEARLY BENEFITED FROM OVERALL FLOW OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION. ARMENIAN CASES SIMILARLY BENEFITED FROM PARTIAL EASING OF RIGID EXIT CONTROLS IN SOVIET ARMENIA, WHICH REPORTEDLY BROUGHT ABOUT INCREASE IN 1973 IN SOVIET ARMENIAN EMIGRATION TO FRANCE AND LEBANON AS WELL AS US. PROGRESS REMAINED MINIMAL, HOWEVER, AMONG OTHER NATIONALITY GROUPS SEEKING JOIN FAMILIES IN US. DESPITE LARGE NUMBER ETHNIC UKRAINIANS ON REP LIST XV, ONLY 18 UKRAINIANS

WERE GRANTED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO US IN 1973. FIGURE EVEN LOWER (5) FOR LITHUANIA, ANOTHER AREA WITH LARGE NUMBER CAS*S ON LIST, ALTHOUGH EXIT PERMISSION HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THREE LONG-STANDING LITHUANIAN REP LIST CASES (KREIVENAS, PETRUSEVICIENE AND JUOZAPAVICIUS) SINCE MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD CONSOFFS CALLED ON VILNIUS OVIR CHIEF OCT 10 (MOSCOW 12671). 1973 EMIGRANTS AL*O INCLUDED 18 ETHNIC RUSSIANS, SEVERAL OF WHICH WERE RECENT SPOUSE CASES, AND 11 GREEKS (MOSTLY STATELESS CIVIL WAR REFUGEES).

4. AMCIT REPATRIATION. HIGH LEVEL USG ATTENTION WAS DEVOTED IN 1973 TO CASES OF TEN AMERICAN CITIZENS LONG SEEKING SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION FOR REPATRIATION TO US. IN SUBMITTING REP LIST TO KUZNETSOV IN MAY, CHARGE ALSO PRESENTED LIST THESE CASES (MOSCOW 5556). SUBSEQUENT REPRESENTATIONS WERE MADE TO HIGH LEVEL SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN THESE CASES BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (STATE 198850) AND EUR/SOV DIRECTOR AND CHARGE (MOSCOW 14507). BY YEAR'S END, EXIT PERMISSION HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN INLY THREE OF THESE CASES (KAZARIAN, MANOOGIAN AND PETRUSEVICIENE).

5. DIVIDED SPOUSES. PROGRESS REMAINED SLOW IN 1973 IN MOST CASES OF DIVIDED US-SOVIET SPOUSES. REPRESENTATION LIST XV INCLUDES SEVERAL STILL UNRESOLVED CASES OF SPOUSES DIVIDED BY WORLD WAR II AND GERMAN OCCUPATION. EVEN SPOUSES IN GROWING NUMBER OF MORE RECENT US-SOVIET MARRIAGES CONTINUED FACE SERIOUS BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS FROM SOVIET SIDE IN: A) REGISTERING MARRIAGE; B) OBTAINING VISA FOR US SPOUSE RETURN FOR WEDDING; AND C) OBTAINING EXIT PERMISSION FOR SOVIET SPOUSE (MOSCOW A-517).
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CONSOFFS ACCORDINGLY MADE REPRESENTATION TO MFA IN AUGUST (MOSCOW 9663) REQUESTING MORE EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING ON SOVIET SIDE AND POINTING OUT THAT INCREASED CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WILL BRING FURTHER INCREASE IN SUCH MARRIAGES. CONSOFF AGAIN APPROACHED MFA IN NOVEMBER ASKING ACCELERATION OF SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION IN FIVE SPOUSE CASES (MOSCOW 14815). ALTHOUGH THREE OF THESE CASES HAVE SINCE BEEN RESOLVED AND FOURTH IS REPORTED BY MFA TO BE "CLOSE TO RESOLUTION" SOVIET SPOUSE IN FIFTH CASE NOW WAITING ALMOST ELEVEN MONTHS FOR ISSUANCE EXIT DOCUMENTATION (RAZMIK GHARIBIAN MOSCOW 16130).

6. PRIVATE VISI
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